

**Board of Selectmen Special Minutes**  
**April 5<sup>th</sup>, 2018 at 6:30pm**  
**Town Hall Meeting Room**

**Attendance:** First Selectman Chris Spaulding, Selectman Brian Gordon (via phone), Selectman Stephan Grozinger, Town Administrator Jonathan Luiz, Administrative Assistant Randi Derene and Weston Residents.

This meeting was videotaped and can be viewed on Channel 79 and on our Town of Weston website.

- 1) **Call to Order:** First Selectman Chris Spaulding called the meeting to order at 6:30pm.
- 2) **Pledge of Allegiance:** Led by Bill Lomas.
- 3) **Discussion and possible decision to appoint Ira W. Bloom as Town Attorney**  
First Selectman Spaulding reviewed the legal review committee process. Mr. Spaulding expressed he liked that Mr. Bloom has worked for similar towns to Weston. Mr. Bloom stated he has been representing municipalities for 20 years and is honored to be recommended. Selectman Grozinger stated Mr. Bloom and his firm is well respected and will be a great fit for Weston.  
Selectman Grozinger moved to appoint Ira W. Bloom as Town Attorney for a two year term commencing May 1, 2018, and to authorize the First Selectman to sign an engagement letter with Berchem Moses PC, after review by Dennis Tracey. Selectman Gordon seconded. Motion carried unanimously.
- 4) **Request from the Board of Education for a supplemental appropriation related to out of district tuition / unilateral placement:** Gina Albert (BOE Chair), Richard Rudl (BOE Finance Director), Dr. Bill McKersie (Superintendent), and Lois Pernice (Director of Special Education) were in attendance. Mr. Spaulding explained the need for the appropriation is due to more outplacements then predicted. Mr. Spaulding and Dr. McKersie discussed the option of making two payments, which Mr. Rudl agree would work. Mr. Luiz recommended approving the full amount now, and let the Board of Finance make the decision on one or two payments. Mr. Rudl

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explained they had 38 outplacements at the time they presented their budget, but now they have 40. Dr. McKersie explained that the ESS program is being utilized successfully with 16 students (max is 18) keeping other students from being outplaced. Selectman Grozinger moved to make a supplemental appropriation to the Board of Education's Fiscal Year 2017-18 operating budget in the amount of \$1,061,852 in consideration of Special Education out of District Tuition and Unilateral Agreements. Selectman Gordon seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

- 5) **Request from the Board of Education for a supplemental appropriation to replace the 2018 technology lease:** Mr. Rudl provided an explanation for the request. Discussion ensued about the utilization of the town's reserves, the efficiencies associated with this request, and the Board of Education borrowing from their internal insurance fund. The Selectmen reached a consensus that they did not want to approve the request for this supplemental appropriation. .
- 6) **Request from the Tree Warden for a supplemental appropriation:** First Selectman Spaulding reminded the public of the work Mr. Lomas does in conjunction with tree companies and Eversource. Mr. Lomas requested a supplemental appropriation for emergency tree work. Mr. Lomas explained that the tree work is needed because the multiple nor'easters have left many large branches hanging over town roads and properties. Selectman Grozinger moved to make a supplemental appropriation to the Tree Warden's Fiscal Year 2017-18 operating budget in the amount of \$30,000 in consideration of the need to perform emergency tree work on municipal roads and municipal properties. Selectman Gordon seconded. Motion carried unanimously.
- 7) **Interview and possible hire of a Part-Time Children's Library Assistant:** First Selectman Spaulding stated the Public Library Board already approved of this

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hire. Selectman Grozinger moved to hire Sheela B. Satpute as part-time Children's Library Assistant pending satisfactory results of a criminal background check. Selectman Gordon seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

- 8) **Discussion and decision to appoint individuals to the Marketing & Communications Advisory Committee:** The Board of Selectmen interviewed Jennifer Bernheim, Brooke Valenti and Jon Achar. First Selectman Spaulding stated the Board will make final decisions on April 19<sup>th</sup>
- 9) **Establishment of initiatives for the Marketing and Communications Advisory Committee:** First Selectman Spaulding reviewed the initiatives. Selectman Grozinger recommended adding a SWOT (Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, and Threats) analysis. Selectman Grozinger moved to charge the Marketing and Communications Advisory Committee with the following initiatives: I) Develop a communications plan for the municipal government; II) Create a marketing presentation for the Town of Weston; & III) Create a unified Town presence through appropriate branding and collateral. IV) Update and refine the existing SWOT analysis for the town. Selectman Gordon seconded. Motion carried unanimously.
- 10) **Discussion and decision to create a Survey Research Committee:** First Selectman Spaulding stated it would be good idea to put together a committee to focus on this initiative. Selectman Grozinger moved to create a Survey Research Committee for the purpose of aiding in the implementation of surveys and research activities on a project specific basis. Selectman Gordon seconded. Motion carried unanimously.
- 11) **Discussion and decision to appoint individuals to the Technology Advisory Committee:** First Selectman Spaulding tabled this item, as the Town and

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School District are working to continue their IT service purchasing agreement.

- 12) **Establishment of initiatives for the Technology Advisory Committee:**  
Tabled.
- 13) **Discussion and decision to appoint John Rogers to the Building Committee to fill a term ending June 30, 2018:** Mr. Rogers stated he is a builder in town, and has been a resident of Weston for a long time. He also stated he has strong general construction knowledge. Selectman Grozinger moved to appoint John Rogers to the Building Committee to fill a term ending June 30, 2018. Selectman Spaulding seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Gordon left the meeting.

- 14) **Resignation of Natalie Terrill from the Sustainability Committee:** Selectman Grozinger move to accept the resignation of Natalie Terrill from the Sustainability Committee. First Selectman Spaulding seconded. Motion carried unanimously.
- 15) **Request from Eversource to access its utility structures via town-owned land:** This item was tabled.
- 16) **Establishment of a second Referendum date (if necessary) and determination of ballot language:** First Selectman Spaulding stated this is only for the Annual Town Budget Meeting referendum vote and only if the budget does not pass. He explained this would give the BOF guidance in making a decision on how to change the budget. Selectman Grozinger moved that if one or more components of the proposed annual budget are not approved at the April 28<sup>th</sup> Annual Town Budget Referendum, then a second Budget Referendum be held on Saturday, May 12, 2018 from twelve o'clock noon and eight o'clock p.m. in the Weston Middle School gym, and

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that the ballot give voters the option of indicating whether they reject a component of the budget because it is too high or because it is too low. Selectman Spaulding seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

- 17) **Establishment of a special town meeting to approve a sublease of Lachat farm to the Friends of Lachat Inc.** Selectman Grozinger explained the process of subleasing part of the farmhouse from the Friends of Lachat to a resident who would become a caretaker. First Selectman Spaulding discussed possible liability issues. Mr. Luiz stated this sublease needs to be submitted to Planning & Zoning Commission by the 9<sup>th</sup>. Selectman Grozinger moved to establish a special town meeting on Thursday, April 19, 2018 at 6:45 pm in the Town Hall Meeting Room for the purpose of approving a sublease of a portion of land on the Lachat Town Farm to the Friends of Lachat Farm Inc. First Selectman Spaulding seconded. Motion carried unanimously.
- 18) **Property Tax Refunds:** Selectman Grozinger move to approve proposed property tax refunds totaling \$41,524.14. Selectman Spaulding seconded. Motion carried unanimously.
- 19) **Minutes Approval – March 5, 15, 19 and 23<sup>rd</sup>:** Selectman Grozinger move to approve the unapproved Board of Selectmen meeting minutes of March 5, 2018, March 15, 2018, March 19, 2018, and March 23, 2018. Selectman Spaulding seconded. Motion carried unanimously.
- 20) **Adjournment:** Mr. Grozinger move to adjourn at 8:37pm. First Selectman Spaulding seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Minutes submitted by,  
Randi Derene, Administrative Assistant

Approved: 4/19/18